

Poplar St. Boston. March 29<sup>th</sup> '41

Dear Deboult.

I believe I had Mr Emery as one of my companions this morning. A gentle man in search of a pastime I hope. He never opened his mouth good or bad. John Prince Lowell was another. I felt somewhat interested in him for his manner was a kindly & pleasant though sort of abandoned one. By abandoned I mean forsaken merely. The other people I did not know. The riding was pretty good. I was received at Poplar St with open arms. I gave Pat's message to Henrietta & you may tell him, she says she shall hold him to it. As soon as I got warmed & fed, & Henrietta did not say merely "Be ye warmed etc" I proceeded to read sundry letters which were laid before me, of the contents of which I will give you a synopsis. One from Mary Grew as per. of the Phil Socy doing. I think she approves our principles & hates our measures. That is while she is willing to receive the doctrines of B. C. she yet blames us for our attack on these Noveraux. It was a specimen of the usual Philic charity. A from Mr Child - Mr C is evidently unhappy & discontented, but strives to conceal what is due to her character as a transcendentalist. Pity that one who really lives so very much in the outward, should so persistently think she exists but in the inner. Her father has left her & gone to live with a married son. She is wishing Garrison would go strict on, not mind Colver & Phelps. She cannot stand strict alone. I should hardly dare to trust her with the Abolitionists. A letter from Mr Colvin. Very few are in a melancholy frame, but Mr C. is willing to say no and does not try to call honest discontent upward aspirations. He seems thrown wholly upon Abolitionists for com fort. Colvin has spent an evening with them & examined their heads. I should

judge they had so little society as to be thankful for  
him. They had also seen Anne Knight and Miss Mar-  
tin can have sent her book to Mr. Astor, & George Thompson  
thought the book not as interesting as it might have been  
as you see all the people the poor woman mentioned were  
Abolitionists. Mr Astor has had a letter from Hildreth.  
It is the Guiana Chronicle he edits. He has sent some  
papers to Mr A. by which they discover he is carrying  
on as furious a battle as per can wage with the  
Guiana Jones. The subject not mentioned. He says "adds  
Mrs A. wishing to give satisfaction I suppose" that eman-  
cation works beautifully." A note from Mary Clark.  
It is written in a happy tranquil spirit. She speaks of  
herself as near death, but is full of hope & faith, re-  
joicing in the sight of New Hampshire. Another from  
John B. Chandler. He has hopes of M. Clark's recovery.  
Reading all this brought me to dinner. Then I read my  
letters alone, then copied the piece for the Liberator and  
learned some Italian & read Blackwood. Mr Chandler  
has spent this evening here, I been very chatty and  
full of talk. Says a great battle is now raging between  
the Orthodox & Unitarian forces. Also among other  
on dit, Judge Weston & his wife of Augusta. Maine.  
have been excommunicated from the church, for  
letting a sewing circle slave at their house. They  
behaved worthy the name, & the Judge walked to the  
church Weston fashion. The name is destined to eccle-  
siastical proscription. One thing I am very sorry to say.  
Poor Susan Paul is in the last stage of consumption. She  
is very low. The friends have to support the family who are  
in great poverty. Her brother Tom's friends have with drawn  
their patronage, think why! He got engaged to Sarah  
Morn! the little one you know. Now he has left her.  
The leaving her is the offence I believe, but I desire

To go I hear the whole from Angelina Horne who was  
here yesterday. I think I have done pretty well for the first  
evening.

Tuesday Afternoon - Chardon St.

This morning I found the Chapel thronged. Colvin Phelps,  
Littler Lee & H. C. Clark drawn up in battle array. A  
letter was read by Colvin from Clarkson on the  
 Sabbath. It began "Ladies & Gentle men" was a nice  
 quiet common place defense of the Sabbath. I might  
 have written much such a one - Johnson said it he  
 laid on the table - and Colvin said a copy of it  
 might be, but he had received intimation  
 that it be made publicly public. Johnson thought  
 it very strange if the Committee Convened could  
 not have a letter addressed to it, if they did not  
 own their own letter who did. Colvin seemed a  
 little ashamed & gave it up, saying he could  
 take a copy. Garrison Whipple and Bassett  
 were appointed a Com to answer it. Never will give  
 you all the details - I can only say that Colvin  
& H. C. in particular behaved like demons  
 with their violence, with a mixture  
 Phelps was more decent & less honest. He  
 appeared no worse than a bigoted stupid creature.  
 The matter at issue was would the Committee resolve  
 that the Scripture of the Old & New Testaments was  
 the only rule for our guidance - H. C. spoke &  
 others as Drinker opposed - I refer you to H. for  
 an account of the talk between Bassett & Colvin  
 about the Broad & Com. They refused to adopt the  
 Res 30 W 6 - I did not vote. Nedra Parker spoke

in an eloquent & gentle manner way tho' of course  
I could not go his views. Abbott spoke very well  
even to my ears. Garrison did not seem to be here  
Dr French worth wrote to carry me back to Boston  
& has brought a written invite from Henry. This  
I cannot do now but shall promise some time  
as I can decide.

A. W. Melton

March 29th 1841

Miss Deborah Weston May 1841

Am going more often & more  
here the few hours we are at  
home & at Grandmama's. Last night  
the 29<sup>th</sup> I had kept on  
talking until late but she  
was very ill again. Her time  
has been very bad.  
A Garrison has been speaking. Now  
Garrison Brown is up

W. C. Wright is here - He reports Mr Clark  
as <sup>at</sup> the point of death - Remington will not go  
to the convention, partly simpler of conscience & partly  
the lack of Tom's wife. Miss Bainbridge is here  
& the usual lot of Abolitionists - I shall go to  
Mass' to ten to night - If you have any chance  
to write tomorrow tell me when you think it  
had better go to Groton after our A. S. meeting or  
after the May convention. They being very lame  
after me to come. Cowles & I will be very busy